Stiletto Heels

translator
Hats

proofreader
Hyeomi

cleaner
SwirlyOwl

typesetter
Minelauva

quality control
Hats

# Ane no Kekkon

## Volume 2, Chapter 10

# piece.10 TRAUMA AT UZUMAKI ISLAND

TO EVERYONE FROM MARUYAMA'S CLASS AT HANA-NO-SHIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Let us dispense with the preliminaries. We apologize for the seemingly abrupt notification.

However, some of you may have already known that Mr. Katsuo Maruyama, who has contributed

CLANK

705

605

706

□□□-□□□□

SO SUDDEN...

THE WEEK AFTER NEXT...

click

CALL THE HOUSE-KEEPER UP THIS INSTANCE!

YOU'RE BACK...?

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH COMING BACK TO YOUR OWN HOME.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS ROOM?

SO ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD SLEEP IN THIS DUMP?

THEY WON'T COME UNLESS WE'VE MADE AN APPOINTMENT.

YOU SMELL DIFFERENT.

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE...

THAT, AND...

IT MUST BE THE SMELL OF MY HOMETOWN.

SO DO YOU.

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HERE.

SLEEP ANYWHERE YOU LIKE.

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

So you've noticed?

YES.

WAIT.

YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?

...WHAT?

YOU'RE MY HUSBAND.

DON'T YOU FORGET.

NO MATTER WHAT.

AND I'M YOUR WIFE.

MY NAME IS YORI IWATANI.

IT' S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I RETURNED TO MY HOMETOWN.

TO EVERYONE FROM MARUYAMA'S CLASS AT HANA-NO-SHIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Let us dispense with the preliminaries. We apologize for the seemingly abrupt notification. However, some of you may have already known Mr. Katsuo Maruyama, who has contributed so much to this school, was passed away. His hometown was in Hana-no-shima Town, so the funeral was held there, but the students who remained on the island were very vocal about holding a memorial.

I WAS BORN THERE, YOU KNOW?

I'M WORKING AT A POST IN THE LOCAL LIBRARY.

OH!OH! OH!

...IS THAT FROM HANA-NO-SHIMA?!

I KNOW, I WAS IN SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL. THEN.

It felt a little weird at that time.

I'M ROOMMATES WITH MY YOUNGER SISTER, WHO TUMBLED IN AFTER BREAKING UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND.

TRRR TRRR TRRR

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9

IT'S BEGINNING.. HIS ONE-WAY CONVER-SATION.

YEAH, AND, OH! MAKE TIME FOR ME ON THE WEEKEND!

WELL, AT LEAST ONE OF US SOUNDS LIKE HE'S WELL..

HUH?

OH, YEAH, HOW ABOUT THE THREE-DAY WEEKEND THE WEEK AFTER NEXT?

HELLO, TANI ENCE.

Please. Turn down the volume.

HOOEY! PLEASE SAY YOU'RE DOING WELL! IT'S ME, FUJINO!

Screech

SORRY FOR NOT BEING IN TOUCH SINCE THAT LAST PARTY.

OHH! I SEE! THEN, UH-

I...HAVE PLANS ON THAT WEEKEND...

BUT I'LL BE AVAILABLE THE SUNDAY AFTER.

ubt... We
people to co...
ssible.
Mo. 11 Day 21 (Sunday)
Hana-no-shima Middle
RSVP here until the d
It will be a joy even
announced.

BEEP!
BEEP!
BEEP!

EITHER ONE OR TWO O' CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON WILL DO.

COME OVER TO MY HOUSE.

SO...IS IT ONE, OR TWO?

CLICK!

WELL, I'LL BE WAITING! UNTIL THEN!

BUT HE DID TELL ME TO MEET HIM AT HIS HOME.

WHAT COULD IT BE?

STILL AS ONE-SIDED AS EVER...

WHEN SENSEI STARTS TALKING, HE CAN GET PRETTY LONG-WINDED.

TO EVERYONE FROM MARUYAMA'S CLASS AT HANA-NO-SHIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL:

IS HE GOING TO INTRODUCE ME TO ANOTHER PUBLISHER...?

LET US DISPENSE WITH THE PRELIMINARIES. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE SEEMINGLY ABRUPT NOTIFICATION.

HOWEVER, SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY KNOWN THIS FACT.

MR. KATSUO MARUYAMA, WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THIS SCHOOL, HAS PASSED AWAY.

HIS HOMETOWN WAS IN HANA-NO-SHIMA TOWN, SO THE FUNERAL WAS HELD THERE,

BUT MANY STUDENTS WHO REMAINED ON THE ISLAND WERE VERY VOCAL ABOUT HOLDING A MEMORIAL.

ANYHOW, WITH IT BEING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE,

WE HOPE YOU MAY COME IF CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ALLOW.

NO DOUBT... WE WOULD LIKE AS MANY PEOPLE TO ATTEND AS POSSIBLE.

Friday

HERE ARE YOUR TWO COFFEES.

ARE YOU CHARGING ME TODAY?

NO... IT'S OK.

This is free.

DO YOU ONLY CHARGE FOR SEX?

.....

TAP

NO, WHY DON'T WE JUST TALK FOR TODAY?

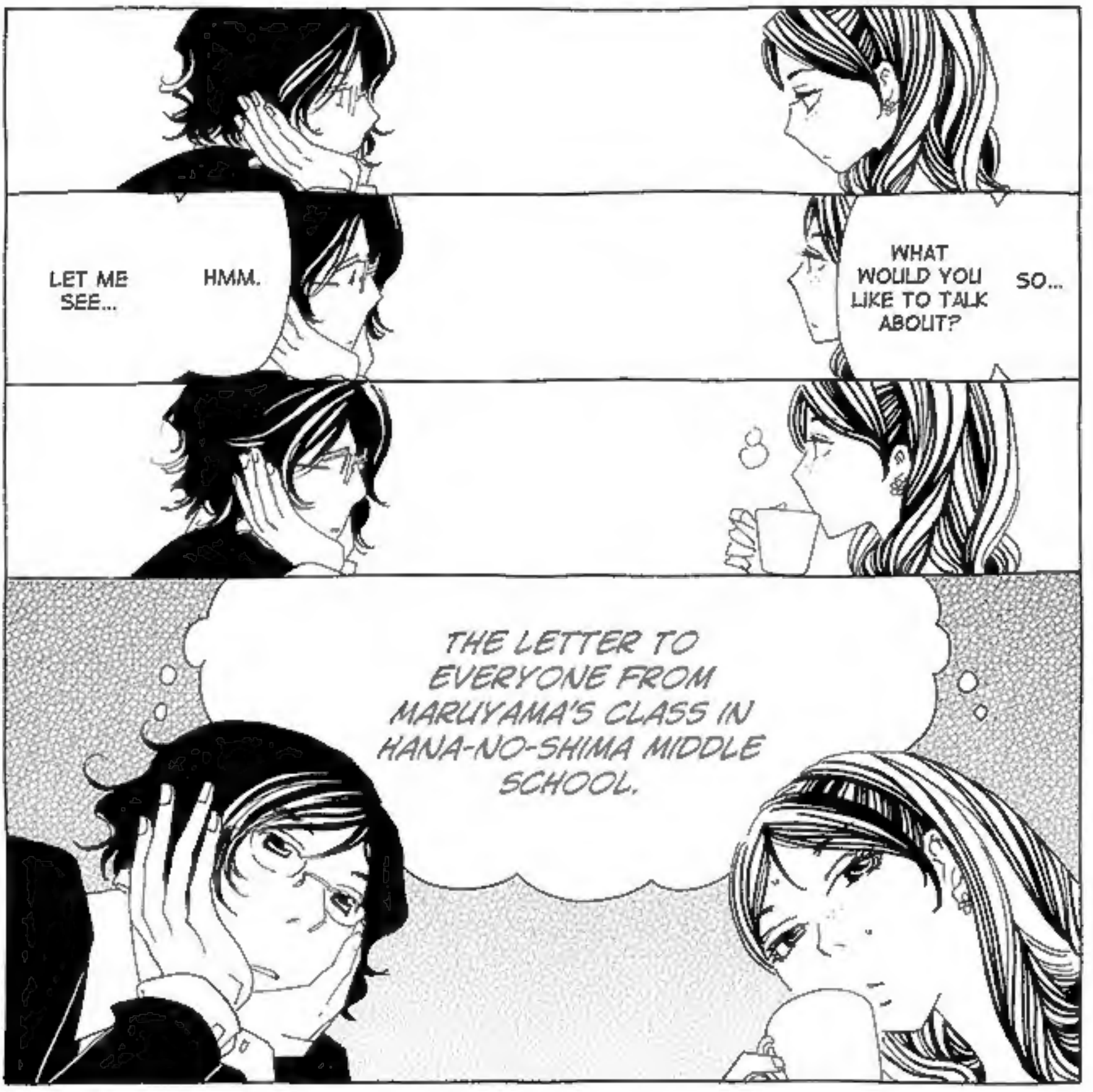
I DON'T THINK WE'D HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON...

THIS MAN IS ONE OF MY CLASS-MATES FROM THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE ISLAND.

RIGHT NOW HE AND I ARE...

CLACK

WANT TO GO? TO THE HOTEL?


LET ME SEE...
HMM.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT?
SO...
THE LETTER TO EVERYONE FROM MARUYAMA'S CLASS IN HANA-NO-SHIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL.


SOMEONE HAS TO BRING UP A TOPIC, BUT BOTH PARTIES SEEM RELUCTANT TO BREAK THE ICE, SO ONE PARTY TRIES TO GET THE OTHER TO MAKE A MOVE THROUGH SHEER WILL POWER...
SILENCE
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN THEM EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT TALKING. SO MATURE!
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK THOSE TWO MAKE A HOT COUPLE?
I'm just here to fill up space anyway.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S MADE ARRANGE-MENTS TO GO.
I'M SURE HE RECEIVED THE LETTER,
HE SEEMS BUSY ON SUNDAYS ANYWAY.

THIS MAN IS.

MY LOVER

I WASN'T FEELING KEEN ON HAVING A RELATIONSHIP,

SO WE DECIDED ON "DAYS OFF" AND WHEN WE "CLOSE UP SHOP"

BUT

Hand-to-shiwa Ferry Terminal

Fishing Boats

HANA-NO-SHIMA,

THE ISLAND WHERE I LIVED FROM 5TH YEAR ELEMENTARY TO 2ND YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL.

EVERYONE FROM MARUYAMA'S CLASS

WELCOME BACK TO HANA-NO-SHIMA!

OHHH!

IWATANI-SAN?

IT'S "MISS" IWATANI

Welcome back!

Wow.! brings back memories!

MISS IWATANI, REMEMBER ME?

YOICHI HAMASATO REMEMBER? I TORE A LIBRARY BOOK AND YOU BEAT THE CRAP OUTTA ME

EVERYONE'S WAITING IN THE SCHOOL! YOU REMEMBER HOW TO GET THERE?

Um. D-Did that really happen?

Oh, are you OK?

Shall we go?

I HAVE THE KEYS.

dangle

DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE HERE SINCE YESTERDAY NIGHT?

Surprised I bet you are! Ooh-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo

YES.

I SLEPT AT THE CLINIC.

HE'S NOT ONE OF OUR CLASSMATES, IS HE?

I never saw him.

HEY

WHO IS THAT MAN?

HUSBAND?

HE MIGHT BE IWATANI-SAN'S

OH!

MAYBE HE WAS IN A DIFFERENT GRADE?

FISHING BOAT HANMARU FISHING BN. 200m

Hm?

HMPH!

NO WAY! DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU A LITTLE JEALOUS? I MEAN, SHE WAS SO PLAIN!

I BET! SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO MAKE AN ANNOUN-CEMENT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!

WOW...

THEY'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED ?

SO THAT MEANS?

NO, CAN'T BE, BECAUSE HER LAST NAME'S "IWATANI "

NOTHING.

Nope.

Nope

NOTHING.

A MOVIE STAR? MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN HIM ON TV?

THAT GUY I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE

BUT, YOU KNOW

O K

PRETEND LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW

KEEP YOUR LIPS SEALED

KYAHH!

NO WAY!

KYAHH!

KYAHH!

THEN THIS MUST BE HIS HOMETOWN

SO MARUYAMA SENSEI'S HOUSE IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL?

OH, MY!—

"MISS" IWATANI?!

HEY!

Haha ha!

NOTHING'S CHANGED!

SHE SAYS SHE'S NOW WORKING AT A PREFECTURAL LIBRARY!

WOW! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!

EVERYONE!

GUESS WHO THIS IS

OH

SEE?

ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW FOR A BIT

SHH!

SO WHO'S THAT GUY?

OH YEAH, I HEARD THE CLINIC'S UNMANNED NOW

RIGHT NOW A DOCTOR STAYS OVER THREE DAYS A WEEK,

AND ALL SORTS OF DOCTORS FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS FROM NAKADAI UNIVERSITY TOO

HAS IT BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE THE DOC WHO LIVED THERE LEFT?

WELL, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, IT'LL TAKE 20 MINUTES TO GET INTO THE CITY

MIGHT BE FASTER GOING TO NAKASAKI HOSPITAL.

AND ALL SORTS OF DOCTORS FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS FROM NAKADAI UNIVERSITY TOO

BUT WE NEVER HAD BUSINESS WITH HIM, SO WE NEVER GOT TO SEE HIM

Don't tell me

THE KID FROM THE CLINIC WAS IN THE SAME GRADE AS US.

HAMASATO, YOU USED TO SHAKE HIM UP ALL THE TIME.

DID HE BECOME A DOCTOR?

OH YEAH, YEAH, IT WAS "WHITE"!

"WHITE "

Dunno

HE NEVER DID MUCH STUDYING.

WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

OH, YOU MEAN THAT FATSO

HE WAS GLOOOOOMY AND WEIRD, HUH? HUH?

OHH! THERE WAS, THERE WAS "WHITE," RIGHT?

REMEMBER? THE FAT, GLOOMY KID?

HIS FULL NAME WAS MAKOTO MAKI, I THINK

MISS IWATAN., DO YOL REMEMBER HIM?

HE HAD A NASTY LOOK IN HIS EYES! THAT GOT MY BLOOD BOILING!

SHEESH!

YEAH, YEAH!

RIGHT?!

HIS HAIR WAS BUSHY LIKE A BROCCOLI!

HAHAHA HAHA!

WHAT IF HE'S DEAD?!

Hahaha!

IS HE EVEN ALIVE?

DIDN'T THEY SEND OUT A POSTCARD TO HIM JUST IN CASE?

YOL STILL SINGLE, MISS IWATAN,?

I SEE

THAT'S IT?

WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY?

THE TWO OLDER KIDS ARE GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS,

AND MY WIFE CHEATS ON ME WHILE I'M AT WORK

YES, AND YOU?

I HAVE THREE KIDS.

WOW, A WONDERFUL FATHER, EH?

WON-DERFUL, MY FOOT!

YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED

bet you're popular

you think so?

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE...

WOOSH

AHH!

OH, IT'S SENSEI!

HAHAHA PRETTY GOOD!

MARUYAMA SENSEI

Think for three seconds before speaking!

Wipe your face with your hair!

Do 10,000 laps around the schoolyard!

Does the sun rise later in your village?!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHO DREW THIS? IT LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM!

D-DID WE GO OVERBOARD?

NO, IT'S GREAT!

SENSEI LOVED BEING IN THE CLASSROOM MORE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE

DURING BREAKS AND AFTER SCHOOL,

HE TAUGHT MATH

I BELIEVE THERE WERE ALSO MANY OF YOU WHO HAVE OPENED UP TO HIM ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES

FOR THAT REASON, WE DECIDED TO MEET HERE

AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR EACH ONE OF YOU TO TAKE YOUR TURN AND SAY GOODBYE TO OUR TEACHER

Ah, it looks just like him, ho ho.

I'm sorry.

SENSEI'S WIFE IS LAUGHING AT IT

AHEM.

FIVE YEARS AFTER MARUYAMA-SENSEI RETIRED DUE TO AGE, HE LIVED IN HIS HOMETOWN OF HANA-NO-SHIMA.

HOWEVER, HE BECAME ILL THE YEAR BEFORE LAST

AND RATHER UNFORTUNATELY PASSED AWAY

SENSEI!!

SENSEI

SENSEI

SENSEI

YOU'RE NEXT, IWATANI-SAN

PUUUSH—

.....

GO ON, GO ON! YOU CAN SAY IT!

UM...?

Progress!
Love of learning
Civic Virtues

Independence
Self Reliance
Self Control

HUH?

HE CAME TO THE CLINIC BEFORE

THAT MAN REALLY IS A DOCTOR!

OH

Long time no see

I'M MAKOTO MAKI.

I'M YORI IWATANI

I-

HUH...?

long time no see

WHAAAAAT?!

WHY?! HOW?!

what do you mean it can't be!

WHAAAAAT?!

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW

Aji no Yado
Hanatsuki
Palace

Wow

A- ANYWAY, BOTTOMS UP! I OWN THIS INN! DRINK MY ENTIRE CELLAR IF YOU WANT!

S SORRY

I NEVER EXPECTED WHITE TO

No. I mean, Maki-kun

YOU CAN CALL ME WHITE.

It's easier to say, right?

YOU LOOK ENTIRELY DIFFERENT

I DIDN'T THIS IS WHAT I NATURALLY LOOK LIKE AFTER LOSING WEIGHT

PLASTIC SURGERY

THAT SAID

ARE YOU REALLY WHITE?

Whoa, it's true! I remember that! It was in art class...

S- SORRY, I WAS JUST A KID!

AHH !

THIS IS FROM AFTER HAMASATO-KUN STABBED ME WITH A PENCIL.

peek

HUH?

I HAVE PROOF

WOW.

SO MANLY

AND YOU, MISS?

ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH WHITE?

YES, HE COMES AND BORROWS BOOKS FROM WHERE I WORK

GETTING A SMALL SCRATCH LIKE THIS WHEN YOU'RE A KID DOESN'T COUNT TO A REAL MAN

Already.?

Yep.

WHAT ?

AND THEN I GOT A FULL-TIME POST AT THE UNIVERSITY

THERE WAS A LOT GOING ON,

Oh, I see. . . . .

Uh

I GOT MARRIED FIVE YEARS AGO, I BELIEVE?

YEAH, THE PSYCHIATRIST CAME AROUND THAT TIME

UH-HUH

BUT HOW IS IT? ARE YOU CLOSE?

HUH?

SO IT'S THE UNIVERSITY OVER THE ISLAND, EH?

HE'S LIVING A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LIFE THAN THE ONE WE'RE LIVING NOW

I BET HIS WIFE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD OF THE HOSPITAL

FOR PEOPLE WHO GET AHEAD IN LIFE?

WHAT ELSE WOULD IT BE

Got it

Handsome!

WELL, YOU KNOW!

BUT HE WAS A PORKER BACK THEN

IF I KNEW HE'D TURN OUT LIKE THAT, I'D HAVE SNATCHED HIM UP!

YOU ALREADY HAVE TWO KIDS, DON'T YOU?

AWW, I WANT TO GO BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE EVERYTHING.

HOW OLD ARE THEY?

WOW. SO YOU'RE A MOM NOW, MAYUMI?

YEAH, TWO

THE OLDEST IS 13, AND THE YOUNGEST IS 9

AWWW!

SAME AGES AS MINE!

GOODNESS, THEY DON'T LISTEN TO A WORD I SAY ANYMORE!

LIBRARY

ktak

ktak

ktak

I GUESS THE BUDGET STOPS SHORT BEFORE GETTING HERE

NOT MUCH OF A COLLECTION THE CONTENTS STILL AS OLD AS EVER

ktak

THEY JUST HAD A HARD TIME TALKING TO YOU

THE BOYS WERE INTERESTED IN YOU

I DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS.

YORI-SAN, YOU USED TO ALWAYS BE IN THE LIBRARY, DIDN'T YOU?

THAT'S WHAT THE GIRLS WERE ALL SAYING.

OH, THE BATHROOM'S STILL THE SAME.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN...

IT TURNS OUT THAT THE GIRLS DIDN'T REALLY HATE YOU EITHER.

A SANDBOX, EH?

DIDN'T THEY BURY ME UP TO MY SHOULDERS? HAHA.

Uh-huh.

THEY LOCKED ME UP IN THERE PRETTY OFTEN.

Oh, I see.

HUH?

NOS-TALGIA.

BECAUSE I WASN'T PRETTY ENOUGH TO STEAL THEIR BOYFRIENDS.

THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

WHERE THE OLD NURSE LADY THREW ME OUT, YELLING, "I AIN'T GOT NO CURE FOR A CRYBABY BEING BULLIED BY THE OTHER BOYS!

What?!

THE GYM.

WHERE I WAS LOCKED UP IN THE JANITOR'S CLOSET IN THE GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM.

AND WHEN THE GIRLS FOUND OUT, THEY USED ME AS A PUNCHING BAG.

Kyahh!

THE CAFETERIA.

WHERE I WAS TOLD TO EAT EVERYONE'S LEFTOVERS THAT WAS THROWN INTO THE FOOD CONTAINER, AND I DID EAT IT WHILE CRYING.

Hngh.

## Maki's Traumatic School Tour

Maki-san?

UM...

Hee... nostalgic...

Girls' Staff Locker Room

rattle

rattle

THIS MAN IS...

DID MARUYAMA-SENSEI EVER SAY ANYTHING TO YOU?

HUH?

I'M NOT LYING WHEN I SAY IT'S NOSTALGIC.

THOUGH IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FUN TO EXPERIENCE.

TO ME, HE SAID,

HE SAID TO ME,

"MAKI, YOU KNOW WHAT PAIN IS, SO YOU'LL BE A GOOD DOCTOR."

"STUDY TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO CAN BE OF HELP TO OTHERS."

"PEOPLE WHO READ LIVE RICHER LIVES THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT."

"BE THE LIGHTHOUSE WHICH SHINES THE WAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOST."

HE WAS THE KIND OF TEACHER WHO ALWAYS SHOWED CONCERN FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T STAND OUT MUCH.

High-quality Paper
High-quality Paper
SPLASH...
SPLAAAASH...
Girls' Staff Locker Roo
ANYWAY, WHAT DID YOU COME IN HERE FOR?
WE MAY NOT BE THE TYPE WHO FIT IN, BUT IF WE'RE MISSING FOR TOO LONG, PEOPLE WILL START WORRYING.
SHOULD WE HEAD BACK?
N-NIGHT?!
YES.
I WAS SITTING LIKE THIS FOR A WHOLE NIGHT.
DID YOU...GET LOCKED IN HERE TOO?
YES.
WOW, IT'S STILL HERE. THESE WERE THE TRACES OF MY NAILS SCRAPING OVER THE WOOD WHILE I WAS WEEPING.
THIS IS ALSO A TOURIST SPOT ON MY TRAUMA TOUR.

CLICK

How badly were you bullied...?

NOW, WHICH SIGHT WILL I SHOW YOU NE-...

CLICK

CLICK

SO THE NEXT MORNING WHEN I EMERGED FROM THE GIRLS' STAFF LOCKER ROOM, THE GIRLS GAVE ME THE NICKNAME "PERVY PORK", AMONG OTHER VARIATIONS...

WHOEVER LOCKED ME IN HERE FORGOT ABOUT ME AND LEFT.

CLIC...

.....

WE'RE LOCKED IN, AREN'T WE?

Had something to say, but decided not to say it

REALLY, HE'S JUST...

PORKY.

DAMN YOU...

Hah! Hah! Hah!

I'M USED TO THIS TYPE OF THING.